

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00  
EB-08 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07  
INT-05 AID-05 AGRE-00 HUD-01 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02  
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TAGS: EEWT, TGEN, FR, UR  
SUBJECT: FRANCO-SOVIET "PETITE COMMISSION" MEETS IN MOSCOW

REF: 77 MOSCOW 14759

SUMMARY: FRANCO-SOVIET "PETITE COMMISSION" MET IN MOSCOW  
JANUARY 19-20. NON-COMMITTAL REFERENCES IN COMMUNIQUE TO  
CONCLUSION OF NEW CONTRACTS AND TO CONCRETE COMMERCIAL RESULTS  
REFLECT FRENCH CONCERNS THAT FRANCO-SOVIET COOPERATION BEAR  
COMMERCIAL FRUIT. SIMILAR REFERENCES TO BETTER BALANCE OF  
TRADE AND COMPENSATION AGREEMENTS REFLECT SOVIET CONCERNS.  
FRENCH DELEGATION WAS TOLD OF 18,000 VACANT POSITIONS IN ONE  
OBLAST, AN INDICATION OF MANPOWER SHORTAGES FACING SOVIET  
AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. 15TH SESSION OF FRANCO-SOVIET MIXED COMMISSION ON  
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION ("PETITE  
COMMISSION") WAS HELD IN MOSCOW JANUARY 19-20. COPY OF  
FRENCH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF COMMUNIQUE INDICATES THAT WORK  
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OF "PETITE COMMISSION" FOLLOWED UP MEETING OF "GRANDE  
COMMISSION" LAST SEPTEMBER (REFTEL). COMMUNIQUE CITES  
FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR ATTAINING STATED GOAL OF  
TRIPLING TRADE TURNOVER IN PERIOD 1975-79 AND "DESIRABILITY"  
OF RAPIDLY CONCLUDING CONTRACTS PRESENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION.  
SECTORAL GROUPS ARE URGED TO CONCENTRATE MORE ON COMMERCIALY  
RELATED THEMES. COMMUNIQUE APPLAUDS IMPROVEMENT IN THE

BALANCE OF TRADE BUT URGES CONTINUED EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. FAVORABLE MENTION IS MADE OF "COMPENSATION" DEALS AS A MEANS OF INCREASING LONG-TERM ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

2. THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED COOPERATION IN OCEANOGRAPHY, TECHNOLOGY FOR COAL PRODUCTION, CONSTRUCTION, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, ARCHITECTURE AND AGRICULTURE. A SUB-GROUP WAS CREATED FOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. CONCRETE PROGRAMS ARE TO BE DRAWN UP FOR COOPERATION IN BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY, LIFE SCIENCES AND SEISMOLOGY. STUDIES ARE TO BE MADE ON POSSIBILITY FOR COOPERATION IN FORESTRY AND MARINE BIOLOGY RESEARCH. SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS ALSO PAID TO REALIZATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS IN AGRICULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, CIVIL AVIATION AND THE AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY, CHEMISTRY AND TRANSPORT. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS TOLD US THAT ITS DELEGATION WAS INFORMED BY A LOCAL OFFICIAL IN SUZDAL THAT THERE ARE SOME 18,000 VACANT POSITIONS IN IN SUZDAL OBLAST ALONE, A FIGURE WHICH ILLUSTRATES WHAT SOVIETS REGARD AS A MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN USSR.

4. COMMENT: REFERENCES TO NEW CONTRACTS AND CONCRETE COMMERCIAL RESULTS REFLECT OFTEN-EXPRESSED FRENCH CONCERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT FRANCO-SOVIET COOPERATION BEAR COMMERCIAL FRUIT. WORDING IS SUFFICIENTLY VAGUE, HOWEVER, TO AVOID CONSTITUTING SOVIET COMMITMENT IN THIS AREA. SOVIET CONCERNS, ON OTHER HAND, ARE REFLECTED IN REFERENCES TO GREATER BALANCE IN TRADE AND TO COMPENSATION DEALS. (FRENCH HERE TELL US FRENCH COMPANIES DISLIKE COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS BUT OFTEN SEE NO WAY TO AVOID THEM.) THUS, COMMUNIQUE REPRESENTS BALANCE OF INTERESTS, EXPRESSED IN NON-COMMITTAL TERMS. END COMMENT. MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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